

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

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R 170900Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1229

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

CINCUSNAVEUR

CTG ONE ZERO ZERO POINT ONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 0723

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, MPOL, UR, US

SUBJ: CONCLUSION OF US NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD

REF: LENINGRAD 0710 AND PREVIOUS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE USS LEAHY AND USS TATTNALL SAILED AWAY FROM LENINGRAD'S SEAPORT MOORING AT 0900 MAY 17, CONCLUDING A FIVE DAY VISIT WHICH WAS SUCCESSFUL IN EVERY RESPECT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LAST DAY OF THE US NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD SAW A FINAL ROUND OF TOURS AND LIBERTY EXCURSIONS FOR THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE USS LEAHY AND USS TATTNALL. EVERYONE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY GETTING A BIT WEARY AFTER CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF ACTIVITY, BUT ALL AGREED THAT IT WAS QUITE AN EVENT. ONE GRIZZLED CHIEF PETTY OFFICER REMARKED ENTHUSIASTICALLY JUST PRIOR TO THE SHIPS' DEPARTURE THAT "IT'S A HELL OF A GODDAM PORT," AND ADDED THAT HE COULD SPEAK FOR MOST OF THE SAILORS IN SAYING HOW PLEASED THEY WERE TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AN HISTORIC EVENT.

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3. CONSUL GENERAL'S RECEPTION EVENING OF MAY 16 WAS WELL ATTENDED AND YOUNGER SOVIET NAVAL OFFICERS HAD A PARTICULARLY GOOD TIME. SOME WERE VERY FORTHCOMING INDEED, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEIR "POLITICAL" COLLEAGUES WERE NOT STANDING AT THEIR ELBOW. PRINCIPAL SOVIET GUESTS WERE: VICE ADMIRAL V.M. LEONENKOV, COMMANDER OF LENINGRAD NAVAL BASE; LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF AVIATION N.V. SHIBANOV, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMANDER OF THE LENINGRAD MILITARY DISTRICT; N.YA. SUSLOV, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION OF THE OBLAST' COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY; V.I. KAZAKOV, MAYOR OF LENINGRAD; AND G.I. POPOV, HEAD OF THE DIPLOMATIC AGENCY. THE ONE HUNDRED SOVIET MILITARY GUESTS INCLUDED 13 ADMIRALS, 4 GENERALS, AND 80 OTHER OFFICERS, SOME WITH WIVES.

4. SOVIET BAND AND HONOR GUARD WERE PRESENT ON PIER AT DEPARTURE OF VESSELS 0900 MAY 17. REAR ADMIRAL LANGILLE REVIEWED HONOR GUARD IN COMPANY WITH VICE ADMIRAL I.M. KOLCHIN, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF LENINGRAD NAVAL BASE. SOVIET BAND PLAYED US AND SOVIET NATIONAL ANTHEMS AS LEAHY HOISTED ANCHOR. CONSUL GENERAL AND MOSCOW DATT ARE ON BOARD LEAHY TO ACCOMPANY AS FAR AS DEPARTURE POINT BEYOND KRONSTADT NAVAL BASE AND WILL THEN TRANSFER TO SOVIET DESTROYER FOR RETURN TO CITY.

5. LENINGRAD'S 0720, JUST TRANSMITTED, GIVES OUR ASSESSMENT OF THIS GREAT VISIT. WE HOPE THE LENINGRAD AND BOSTON EXPERIENCES WILL SERVE TO INAUGURATE A REGULARIZED EXCHANGE OF NAVAL VISITS AND WE ESPECIALLY HOPE THAT LENINGRAD'S TURN WILL COME AGAIN SOON.
NEUBERT

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